

CLAIM LISTING:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) In a star network ~~having~~ comprising a plurality of N nodes where N is an integer equal to or greater than three, the N nodes being interconnected-intercoupled by a plurality of links, with one of the nodes being the hub node h and the other of the nodes being $\{x_1, \dots, x_{N-1}\}$ spoke nodes ~~connected~~ coupled to the hub node by links each ~~having~~ comprising a plurality of W channels going into the hub node h and out of the hub node h , where W is even, a method of configuring the nodes comprising:

(a) dividing the channels into two sets, with each set ~~having~~ comprising $W/2$ channels, where the first set has channels numbered $\{0, \dots, W/2 - 1\}$ and the second set has channels numbered $\{W/2, \dots, W - 1\}$; and

(b) configuring the hub node such that channel i on any one of the links may be ~~connected~~ coupled to channel $w(i)$ on any of the links, where $w(i)$ equals $i + W/2$ and where i is no greater than W .

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) In a star network ~~having~~ comprising N nodes where N is an integer equal to or greater than three, with one of the nodes a hub node, wherein each of the other of the nodes is ~~connected~~ coupled to the hub node by a multichannel link ~~having~~ comprising W channels, where W is an even integer, a star network configured as follows:

the hub node configured such that channel i on any one of the links may be ~~connected~~ coupled to channel $w(i)$ on any other of the links, where $w(i) = (i + W/2)$ and where i is no greater than W .

14. (Currently Amended) In a network ~~consisting of~~ comprising N nodes and E links e_1, e_2, \dots, e_E , wherein N and E are any integer and wherein each link between nodes comprises is a multichannel multiplexed link, ~~consisting of~~ comprising W channels $\{0, 1, \dots, W - 1\}$, where W is even, a method of configuring the nodes in the network comprising:

(a) grouping channels into two sets, $\{0, \dots, W/2 - 1\}$ and $\{W/2, \dots, W - 1\}$; and

(b) at each node, for $i = 0, 1, \dots, W/2 - 1$, ~~connecting~~ coupling channel i on one link to channel $w(i)$ on all the other links incident on that node, where $w(i) = i + W/2$.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A network ~~having~~ comprising N nodes and E links for ~~interconnecting~~ intercoupling the nodes where N and E are any integer, where each link is comprises a multichannel multiplexed link ~~having~~ comprising W channels, and where W is even, a network configured as follows:

each node, for $i = 0, 1, \dots, W/2 - 1$, channel i on one incident link ~~connected~~ coupled to channel $w(i)$ on all other incident links of each node, where $w(i) = i + W/2$.

17. (Currently Amended) In a star communication network comprising a hub node and a plurality of spoke nodes and comprising a plurality of links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes, each link being arranged to carry a plurality of W channels into the hub node and out of the hub node, a method of configuring the network comprising the steps of:

limiting the W channels to an even number;
dividing the W channels into a first group and a second group in each of the links;
~~connecting~~ coupling each channel of the first group of one of the links to one
channel of the second group of each of the links other than the one link; and
assigning no more than W channels to the transmission of data along any of the
links, whereby the efficiency of the configuring is improved.

18. (Previously Presented) A method, as claimed in claim 17, and further
comprising the step of assigning routes to the channels which traverse at most two of
the links.

19. (Currently Amended) A method, as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step
of ~~connecting~~ coupling comprises the step of ~~connecting~~ coupling each channel $i =$
 $0, 1, \dots, W/2 - 1$ of a first one of the links through the hub node to channel $w(i)$ on each
of the links other than the first link where $w(i) = i + W/2$.

20. (Currently Amended) A star communication network comprising in
combination:

a plurality of spoke nodes;
a hub node; and
links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes, each link
being arranged to carry a plurality of W channels into the hub node and out of the hub
node, the channels being divided into a first group and a second group where W is
even, the hub node ~~connecting~~ coupling each channel of the first group of one of the
links to one channel of the second group of each of the links other than the one link.

21. (Previously Presented) A network, as claimed in claim 20, wherein each link comprises no more than W channels.

22. (Previously Presented) A network, as claimed in claim 20, comprising routes arranged to carry the W channels, wherein the routes traverse at most two of the links.

23. (Currently Amended) A network, as claimed in claim 20, wherein each channel $i = 0, 1, \dots, W/2 - 1$ of the one link is ~~connected~~ coupled through the hub node to channel $w(i)$ on all of the links other than the one link where $w(i) = i + W/2$.

24. (Currently Amended) In a star communication network comprising a hub node and a plurality of spoke nodes and comprising links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes, each link being arranged to carry a plurality of W channels into the hub node and out of the hub node, a method of configuring the network comprising the steps of:

assigning no more than W channels to the transmission of data along any of the links; and

~~connecting~~ coupling each channel of a first one of the links to no more than two channels of a second one of the links through the hub node, whereby the efficiency of the configuring is improved.

25. (Currently Amended) A star communication network comprising in combination:

a plurality of spoke nodes;

a hub node; and

links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes, each link being arranged to carry a plurality of W channels into the hub node and out of the hub node, the hub node ~~connecting~~ coupling each channel of a first one of the links to no more than two channels of a second one of the links through the hub node.

26. (Currently Amended) In a star communication network comprising a hub node and a plurality of spoke nodes and comprising links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes, each link being arranged to carry a plurality of no more than W channels into the hub node and out of the hub node, a method of configuring the network comprising the steps of:

assigning no more than W channels to the transmission of data along any of the links; and

~~connecting~~ coupling each channel of a first one of the links to no more than a second channel of a second one of the links through the hub node, where the second channel is different from the first channel of the second one of the links.

27. (Currently Amended) A star communication network comprising in combination:

a plurality of spoke nodes;

a hub node; and

links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes, each link being arranged to carry a plurality of no more than W channels into the hub node and out of the hub node, the hub node ~~connecting~~ coupling each channel of a first one of the links to no more than a second channel of a second one of the links through the hub

node, where the second channel is different from the first channel of the second one of the links.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of proposing a star network comprising:
proposing a network comprising a hub node and a plurality of spoke nodes;
proposing links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes,
each link being arranged to carry a plurality of W channels into the hub node and out of
the hub node, the channels being divided into a first group and a second group where
 W is even; and

proposing that the hub node ~~connects~~ couples each channel of the first group of
one of the links to one channel of the second group of each of the links other than the
one link.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of proposing a star communication
network comprising:

proposing a hub node and a plurality of spoke nodes;
proposing links coupled between the hub node and the plurality of spoke nodes,
each link being arranged to carry no more than W channels into the hub node and out of
the hub node; and

proposing that the hub node ~~connects~~ couples each channel of a first one of the
links to no more than two channels of a second one of the links through the hub node.

30. (Currently Amended) In a star network ~~having~~ comprising a plurality of N
nodes ~~interconnected~~ intercoupled by a plurality of links, with one of the nodes being
the *hub* node h and the other nodes being $\{x_1, \dots, x_{N-1}\}$ *spoke nodes*, and being

~~connected~~ coupled to the hub node by one of the links having comprising W channels, where W is even, a method of configuring the nodes comprising:

- (a) dividing channels into two sets, with each set having comprising $W/2$ channels, where the first set has channels numbered $\{0, \dots, W/2 - 1\}$ and the second set has channels numbered $\{W/2, \dots, W - 1\}$;
- (b) configuring the hub node such that channel i on any one of the links may be ~~connected~~ coupled to channel $w(i)$ on any of the links by a connection, where $w(i)$ equals $i + W/2$;
- (c) assigning channels to the connection which traverses at most two of the links, wherein paths p_1, \dots, p_m traverse exactly two of the links and paths p_{m+1}, \dots, p_M traverse only one of the links, wherein the links are designated as links e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{N-1} such that for $i = 1, \dots, N - 1$, e_i is between nodes x_i and h ;
- (d) identifying a path incident to the end nodes of the path;
- (e) directing paths $\{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$ so that each path extends from one end node of the path to the other end node of the path, each spoke node having comprising at most $W/2$ incident paths that are directed into the spoke node and at most $W/2$ incident paths that are directed out of the spoke node;
- (f) identifying a free node that has at least one incident undirected path;
- (g) directing the paths $\{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$ by using the following procedure:
 - i. if each link has exactly W paths from the set $\{p_1, \dots, p_M\}$ that traverse the link then let $R = M$; otherwise, construct additional paths $p_{M+1}, p_{M+2}, \dots, p_R$ in the star network so that for each link, there are exactly W paths from the set $\{p_1, \dots, p_R\}$ that traverse the link;
 - ii. considering all paths $\{p_1, \dots, p_R\}$ undirected, and
 - iii. as long as there is a free node,

- A. starting from a free node, x_i , and traversing an undirected incident path (from the set $\{p_1, \dots, p_R\}$) to the other end node, and directing the path in the direction of the traversal,
 - B. starting from the other end node, traversing an undirected incident path (from the set $\{p_1, \dots, p_R\}$) to the next end node, and directing the path in the direction of the traversal, and
 - C. keep traversing undirected paths (and directing the traversed paths) until x_i is reached;
- (h) creating a bipartite graph G which has two sets of vertices $\{u_1, \dots, u_{N-1}\}$ and $\{v_1, \dots, v_{N-1}\}$ and has edges $\{b_1, \dots, b_m\}$ such that for $i = 1, \dots, m$, b_i is between u_j and v_k if path p_i is directed so that it traverses link e_j and then e_k ;
- (i) assigning a number from the first set of channels $\{0, \dots, W/2 - 1\}$ to the edges of graph G such that at any vertex in graph G has all of its incident edges assigned to a distinct number of the first set, and denoting the number assigned to each edge b_i by $q(b_i)$; and
- (j) for $i = 1, \dots, m$, assigning channels to p_i where
- i. the channels are $q(b_i)$ from link e_j and $w(q(b_i))$ from link e_k where j and k are such that u_j and v_k are the end vertices of b_i , where $w(i) = i + W/2$, and
- (k) for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N - 1$, assigned distinct channels to all paths from the set $\{p_{m+1}, \dots, p_M\}$ that traverse the link e_i such that the channels are not already assigned to paths from $\{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$.

31. (Currently Amended) In a network consisting of comprising N nodes and E links e_1, e_2, \dots, e_E , wherein each link between nodes is comprises a multichannel multiplexed link, consisting of comprising W channels $\{0, 1, \dots, W - 1\}$, where W is even, a method of configuring the nodes in the network comprising:

- (a) grouping the channels into two sets, $\{0, \dots, W/2 - 1\}$ and $\{W/2, \dots, W - 1\}$;

- (b) at each node, for $i = 0, 1, \dots, W/2 - 1$, connecting coupling channel i on one link to channel $w(i)$ on all the other links incident on that node, where $w(i) = i + W/2$;
- (c) assigning channels to connections $1, 2, \dots, m$ using paths p_1, \dots, p_m , wherein each of the paths traverses at most two of the links, where no two connections traversing the same one of the links are assigned to the same channel on the one link;
- (d) creating an equivalent star network with $E + 1$ nodes with the E nodes e'_1, e'_2, \dots, e'_E corresponding to the edges in the original network and the remaining node h being the hub node; and
- (e) creating an equivalent set of connections in the star network p'_1, p'_2, \dots, p'_m such that:
 - i. if connection p_i uses link e_j in the original network then connection p'_i uses the link between nodes e'_j and h in the star network,
 - ii. if connection p_i uses links e_j and e_k in the original network then connection p'_i uses the following two links in the star network: the link between nodes e'_j and h and the link between nodes e'_k and h ,
 - iii. assigning channels to the p'_i according to step (c) and assigning the same set of channels to p_i as to p'_i , and
 - iv. assigning channels to the set of paths p'_1, \dots, p'_m such that for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ if p'_i is assigned channel c on the link between nodes e'_j and h and is also assigned channel c' on the link between nodes h and e'_k in the star network then c and c' are the channels assigned to path p_i for links e_j and e_k respectively.